

# Analysis, Yes; Subpoena, No

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By Lawrence Laurent

NBC President Julian Goodman said yesterday that his network will continue to follow presidential speeches with analysis and that it will oppose government subpoenas for news material that has not been broadcast.

In a speech prepared for the Sigma Delta Chi Foundation lecture at the University of Texas, Goodman declared that his organization

will resist government actions "that violate the confidence of our sources, that waken our credibility and that limit our access to information."

Goodman noted that networks cover presidential appearances, live, "because by virtue of his office, a president is major news."

Goodman continued: "Because a president's speech is one link in a chain of news, we believe such a message calls for analysis to give background and perspective to what he has said. This

means presenting the president's speech in a framework of journalism, rather than simply contributing air time to it."

The NBC President said his network will continue to let opposition spokesmen criticize presidential speeches.

"But within the standards of equal time and fairness," he added, "we must also remain the sole judges of what constitutes good news practices."

He urged passage of a bill pending in the Congress

that will protect newsmen against government subpoena, noting that at present only 14 states have laws for the protection of confidential news sources.

Goodman said that the last 18 months have brought "a series of dragnet subpoenas directed at the confidential materials and memories of newsmen. No fewer than five government groups, plus a national commission, descended on the news media after the Democratic convention in Chicago."